

Two poems for Alexandria Earth Day Celebration Saturday, 30 April, 2016

In honor of this week's weather:

Haiku:

This rain cannot stop
Endless is the water for
We are all water

The piece written and recited to open the event. (The title, and theme for this year, was given to me by Natasha Anderson, the chairperson of the EPC Earth Day Committee.)

Choose to Reuse

What we waste we lose
What is old we must renew
What is rusted we must re-blue

Precious water for the land
We must catch all that we can
Rain gutters and barrels
Our greedy cupping hands

Does your water bottle have a name?
My first was named "Din"
And though I beat him and I flayed him
By the aluminum that made him
An Earth-friendlier friend to me
could not have been

And speaking of inanimate love:
How about that sexy canvas grocery bag
I picked up on vacation
No flimsy plastic one-night stand is she
but a ready reliable conveyance
and a *souvenir* to me

And *who* on **Earth**
Would buy a plastic container
When one comes free
with every Hot & Sour soup
And *why* on **Earth**
Would anyone use plastic cutlery
With stainless steel so right and real

Family hand-me-downs are resources found
keep your loved ones about you
repaired is resources spared
for loyal service that patina's your clue

At long last we are recognizing the finality of this world
And true to our restless mercurial selves The talk is
of finding another planet
But we should only contemplate a move to Mars if
in the course of this contemplation
we necessarily discover how to first save the Earth
In so doing we'll insure
any interplanetary travel will be leisurely to
simply satisfy our curiosity And
not as a matter of survival
for a chosen few

Make no mistake, this is it
This is all we actually have
One world Our world
A limited resource of limitless beauty and tenuous nature
Obviously we need her
Naturally we love her
But we must **choose** to respect her
We must Choose to reuse